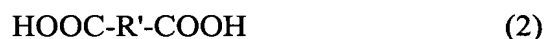


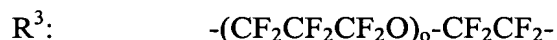
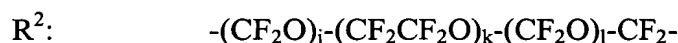
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A perfluoropolyether ester compound having at least one ester bond, which is obtained by an esterification reaction between a perfluoropolyether diol having hydroxyl groups at both ends thereof and represented by the formula (1) and a perfluoropolyether dicarboxylic acid having carboxyl groups at both ends thereof and represented by the formula (2):



wherein each of R and R' is a group selected independently from the following perfluoroether groups R¹ through R⁴:



wherein m, n, j, k, l, o and p independently represent integers between 1 and 100.

2. (Original) The perfluoropolyether ester compound according to Claim 1, wherein said esterification reaction is performed by the bulk polymerization method.

3. (Currently Amended) The perfluoropolyether ester compound according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein the weight average molecular weights of the perfluoropolyether diol of

formula (1) and the perfluoropolyether dicarboxylic acid of formula (2) are each between 2000 and 4000.

4. (Currently Amended) A lubricant containing the perfluoropolyether ester compound according to ~~any of Claims~~Claim 1 through 3.

5. (Original) A magnetic recording medium having at least a magnetic layer formed on a non-magnetic support, wherein an applied film of the lubricant according to Claim 4 is formed on the surface of the magnetic layer.

6. (New) The perfluoropolyether ester compound according to Claim 2, wherein the weight average molecular weights of the perfluoropolyether diol of formula (1) and the perfluoropolyether dicarboxylic acid of formula (2) are each between 2000 and 4000.

7. (New) A lubricant containing the perfluoropolyether ester compound according to Claim 2.

8. (New) A lubricant containing the perfluoropolyether ester compound according to Claim 3.